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**THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUD GILBERT**

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August 26, 2004

Dear Editor:

Recent action by the Board of State Canvassers is an appalling slap in the face to Michigan voters. Two Democrats on the board decided voters should not have a chance to vote on a proposed amendment banning same-sex marriage in Michigan. They did this merely because they do not personally agree with this initiative, for amendment supporters submitted over 140,000 more valid petition signatures than necessary to qualify for the ballot.

Gov. Granholm's public support for denying Michigan residents the opportunity to be heard on this issue is even more disturbing. This week marks the 84th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution – the one giving women the right to vote. Around the world, people are fighting and dying for the chance to vote in an election.

In my Senate district alone, more than 10,000 people signed the marriage amendment petition, calling for the people's right to vote on this proposal. It is inexcusable that just TWO people would keep this opportunity from voters and shameful that the governor would support such an inappropriate abuse of power.

Sincerely,

Jud Gilbert
State Senator
25th District

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